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Ghana native receives settlement stemming from suit against FBI, CIA

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A Ghana native who claimed the FBI and CIA didn't pay him for spy work has received a \$4,000 out-of-court settlement from the agencies.

The settlement may also speed up the process of becoming a citizen for A. McKaye Asante, a graduate student at Mankato State University, said his attorney Bill Tilton.

Asante was granted political-asylum status in January. The agreement provides that if he remains at that status for a year and meets all eligibility requirements, "the Immigration and Naturalization Services agrees to exercise its discretion favorably upon his application for permanent resident status."

Tilton said the asylum status was granted on the grounds that Asante would not be safe in Ghana because of the work he did for the FBI in the United States.

Asante came to the United States in

the early 1970s with a state department tour for foreign students. He then stayed here on a student visa, and studied journalism at the University of Minnesota. He worked for two years as a copy aide at the Minneapolis Tribune.

Asante claimed he worked periodically for the FBI and CIA from 1974 to 1979.

In the suit he filed in June in federal court, Asante said he gathered information from foreign nationals who were visiting the United States, and attended certain meetings, including those of the Young Socialist Alliance, Students for a Democratic Society and Amnesty International.

He also claimed the federal agents promised they would "take care of him" by providing him with a permanent resident status as consideration for his work.

Asante's suit alleged that he made two trips to Mexico in 1977, and that he was never paid for the second trip, which cost about \$3,000.

His suit had asked for \$3,000 for the trip, \$10,000 as the value of permanent resident status and \$1 million for other damages.

"The contractual promise of the defendant caused the plaintiff to lead a life of isolation, lies, distrust, falsity, fear and severe mental stress; these promises caused him to divorce his wife and inform on his friends. The plaintiff did so in reasonable belief that his efforts would be rewarded with the privilege to permanently reside in the United States," his suit said.

Tilton said Asante had not pursued the normal course for permanent resident status because he thought the FBI would take care of him.

The order approving the settlement was signed Friday by U.S. District Judge Miles Lord. The settlement says the payment does not mean the government concedes or admits they violated any alleged rights of Asante.